

VICTIM BILL OF RIGHTS - ESTABLISHED 1984
M.G.L CHAPTER 258B

**right to be
informed**

**right to be
present**

**right to be
heard**



2021
**AN ACT TO ENHANCE THE RIGHTS OF CRIME VICTIMS
IN THE COMMONWEALTH**

H.1530/S.989

*A proposal to clarify and revise the current language in the **Victim Bill of Rights**.*

It seeks to:

- **address** unfulfilled commitments to victims of crime
- **codify** practices by criminal justice agencies that have evolved since the statute's creation in 1983
- **add** new rights to the Bill of Rights that reflect the needs of crime victims today

This bill will:

**Improve
notification to
victims
throughout
criminal justice
agencies**

**Increase access to
victim services to
crime victims and
families when
indictments are not
issued**

**Strengthen the
practice and
purpose of
victim impact
statements in the
court system**

**Provide enhanced
cooperation between
law enforcement,
judicial system,
and post-conviction
agencies**

WHY NOW?

MOVA celebrated the **35th year anniversary** of the Victim Bill of Rights in 2019, which allowed for renewed conversations and feedback with the victim service community about how the current law needed to be enhanced to better serve victims of crime.

This act will update the Victim Bill of Rights so it can meet our standards for victim services in **2021**.

This proposal addresses the pressing need to provide victims and witnesses with the necessary supports to effectively and safely participate in the criminal justice system.



MOVA strives to advance victim rights by ensuring all victims and survivors of crime across the Commonwealth are supported and empowered through access to high-quality services that are **trauma-informed, culturally-responsive, and reflective of diverse communities**. MOVA achieves this through **survivor-informed work, advocacy** for enhanced victim rights and services, **partnerships** with agencies and individuals, and a commitment to providing **funding and services for underserved and marginalized communities**.